

Good morning to the Members of the Committee:

My name is Carmen Aguilera, a resident of Edgemont with my husband Real Goddu, for 16 years.

First, I would request that Councilor Sean Chu, recuse himself from this Committee and vote, As he has taken advantage of this situation to make clear he supports it, publicly and is understood as using it for a future advantageous campaign position.

Second, the LEAF petition was not exactly clear as to the long term commitment. It was understood only as a 1 year program. The wording was confusing (similar to that used by insurance as to: read the small words). There was not time for that, and all seemed rosy in Calgary at the time, not knowing many families would be hard hit by losing their jobs, including my husband.

Third. Contrary to the belief of some, there are not many wealthy seniors in Edgemont. Why there can be many reasons, one of them, in our case, we have spent for a year and a half now, most of our savings, and with our age, jobs do not come our way anymore.

Fourth. There will be an increase in electricity and other utilities, and increases in property taxes. Seniors have a fixed income. It is not right to increase a self imposed tax this way and it is not the time.

Fifth. The statistics provided for the city are not exact. They do not take into account all of those workers who are self employed and do not fit into Employment Insurance. Another problem.

Sixth. There are many ways our community can be beautified, I had suggested a contest and recognition for a well kept garden, volunteering to keep up small spaces near your home, others.

Seventh. So far the city seems to have a problem sending By Law Officers to enforce snow removal, grass cutting, debris in your yard, re-gravel back alleys; there are sometimes even abandoned vehicles, which I have of course called the Parking Authority. City of Calgary property is the responsibility of the City to keep it up. Why extra taxes?

Eight. Lastly, there should be an outside independent audit; there is information that states that the "For" petition did not make the 67% requirement, as stated by the other colleagues that have made their presentation on this issue.

Thank you for giving us the chance to speak concerning the proposed LEAF Tax Levy

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